

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: David MALONE et al

Serial No.: New

Filing Date: April 12, 2001

For: A MESSAGING SYSTEM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 17 as follows:

17. (amended) A computer program product comprising software code for performing a method as claimed in claim 15 when executing on a digital computer.

REMARKS

The foregoing Preliminary Amendment is requested in order to delete the multiple dependent claims and avoid paying the multiple dependent claims fee.

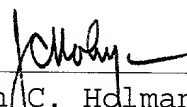
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

Early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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JCH:jrc

VERSION, WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

17. (amended) A computer program product comprising software code for performing a method as claimed in claim 15 [claims 15 or 16] when executing on a digital computer.